

The News Bulletin of the  
International Tennis Federation  
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australian open  
The Grand Slam of Asia/Pacific

## Juniors take to the courts in Melbourne

The Australian Open Juniors got underway on Sunday with India's Yuki Bhambri the clear favourite to win the boys' title. Bhambri enjoyed great success in the second half of the 2008 Circuit, claiming two Grade A titles, including the Orange Bowl.

One of Bhambri's biggest rivals is Julien Uriguen (GUA). Currently world No. 10, Uriguen announced himself on the Circuit by claiming the first crown of the year, the Grade A Casablanca Cup. The in form player of the chasing group is Julien Obry (FRA) who was victorious in the singles and doubles at the Australian Open warm-up tournament in Traralgon and reached the semifinals in Nottingham last week. In the absence of Bernard Tomic, who competes in the men's draw, Australian hopes rest with James Duckworth, although his performances in the two warm-up events have been disappointing.



Noppawan Lertcheewakarn (THA)  
(Photo: Susan Mullane)

The girls' competition will be hotly contested by a plethora of potential winners. Leading the seeding is world No. 1 Noppawan Lertcheewakarn (THA), who is yet to claim a Grand Slam title. Romania's Ana Bogdan, world No. 2, will look to challenge Lertcheewakarn in her return to the Junior Circuit. Her compatriot and world No. 4 Elena Bogdan reached the semifinals of the Nottingham last week, while Laura Robson (GBR) is the only player in the draw to have already tasted Grand Slam success. However, Robson was forced to withdraw from her warm-up events due to injury and her state of health could have a big effect on this week's events. Daily results and reviews will be available at [www.itftennis.com/juniors](http://www.itftennis.com/juniors).

## Paralympic champions head Wheelchair Open entry

Paralympic champions Shingo Kunieda (JPN), Esther Vergeer (NED) and Peter Norfolk (GBR) are out to try and defend their Australian Open titles when the wheelchair competition gets underway in Melbourne this week. The NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour enters a new era in 2009, with the wheelchair events at the four Grand Slams yielding the most world ranking points for the world's top players and taking on a new Grand Slam status.










Kunieda is unbeaten in both the men's singles or doubles events at Melbourne Park for the past two seasons and after sweeping through 2008 undefeated, he will start as a warm favourite this week. World No. 2 Robin Ammerlaan (NED) and world No. 3 Michael Jeremiasz (FRA) both have title-winning form at Melbourne Park and join a quality field that includes seven of the world's top eight players.

Since competitive wheelchair tennis made its debut at a Grand Slam, in Melbourne in 2002, Esther Vergeer (NED) has won every women's singles and doubles title. However, world No. 2 Korie Homan (NED) took Vergeer to three sets four times in 2008 and could pose a threat. Jiske Griffioen (NED) and Florence Gravelier (FRA) complete the world's top four players in the field of eight.

The world's top four will also contest the quad singles, with Norfolk unbeaten in quad singles events at a Grand Slam. However, the three-time Australian Open champion has not struck a ball in competition since Beijing. David Wagner (USA), Beijing silver medallist Johan Andersson (SWE) and Nick Taylor (USA) will be out to expose any flaw in Norfolk's armoury.

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## Britons head Junior Masters field

Twelve of the world's leading juniors, including world number ones and defending champions Gordon Reid and Jordanne Whiley both from Great Britain, line up for this week's Cruyff Foundation International Wheelchair Tennis Junior Masters. The event, which begins on Thursday in Tarbes, France, takes place alongside the final four days of the prestigious Les Petits As junior tournament.

British players have dominated the Junior Masters over the past two years, winning three of the four titles on offer in 2007 before securing a clean sweep of titles last year. Reid's biggest threat in the eight-player field is likely to come from last year's runner-up, Dutch 16-year-old Tom Egberink. Meanwhile, Whiley faces fellow Briton Louise Hunt, American Mackenzie Soldan and Dutch debutant Brechje Widlak in the girls' singles round-robin. Live scores will be available at [www.lespetitsas.com](http://www.lespetitsas.com), with updates at [www.itftennis.com/wheelchair](http://www.itftennis.com/wheelchair).

## Nigeria claims team trophy

Nigeria won the team trophy for the second consecutive year at the ITF/CAT West & Central African Junior Championships, thanks to victories by Samuel Omoile in the boys' 16 & under and Umaru Balami in the boys' 14 & under events. Eleven countries were represented in the week-long competition which took place in Accra, Ghana. The top six players per age group plus one ITF/CAT wildcard will qualify for the 31<sup>st</sup> ITF/CAT African Junior Championships to be held on 11-15 April in Casablanca, Morocco.

Cameroon came second following Catina Gamos's win in the girls' 14 & under event and Celestin Nkoueleue picking up second position in the boys' 16 & under competition. The girls' 16 & under competition was dominated by Benin, with victory going to Stephanie Ntcha who defeated compatriot Oussou Azo Lea in the final.

Mohammed Ubale, national coach of Nigeria, said: "The level is getting stronger and stronger year after year and the competition is gaining great importance within the region with many of the West & Central African countries battling it out for the title of the West & Central African Junior Champion. In addition they all want their players among the first six in each age group to qualify for the African Junior Championships."

## Tight at the top in Malaysia

It was a close affair at the ITF 14 & under Junior Championships (Group 2), with the same two girls and boys reaching the finals of the two four-day tournaments which took place in Sarawak, Malaysia. The event was organised by the Sarawak Lawn Tennis Association (SLTA) and attracted 59 participants from 16 nations.

Amer Naow (SYR), a member of the ITF team, overcame Hoang Thien Nguyen (VIE) in the first tournament 62 64. Nguyen received some consolation when he partnered Sharmal Dissanayake (SRI) to defeat Naow and his partner Jacob Makhzoumeh (SYR) in the boys' doubles final 63 64. Nguyen then exacted his singles revenge the following week taking victory over Naow 42 42 in the second tournament.

Lyn Yuen Choo of Malaysia dominated the girls' singles, defeating Nancy Karaki (LIB) 64 60 in the singles competition and then partnering compatriot Archnaah Rajan to victory in the doubles over the Malaysian pairing of Alyssa Boey and Yin Ying Chang 63 63. Karaki turned the tables in the second tournament winning the contest 14 42 42. Due to incessant rain singles short sets were played in the singles and the doubles event could not be played in the second week.

ITF Development Officer for Asia, Suresh Menon, remarked: "A large number of the players in this competition are from the ITF assisted Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) programme. It is exciting to see players from many of these nations participating here and having their talents optimized through this competition which is a part of the ITF's 'pyramid of opportunity'."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ITF Year & Davis Cup Yearbook available

The latest editions of The ITF Year and The Davis Cup by BNP Paribas: The Year in Tennis 2008 are now available for sale from the [ITF Store](#).

The ITF Year 2008 is a comprehensive colour record of the ITF's activities in 2008. This eighth edition of the ITF's official yearbook contains features by leading tennis writers on the 2008 season; full results of Grand Slam tournaments, Davis and Fed Cup, ITF mens and womens professional circuits, ITF Junior Circuit, wheelchair tennis and ITF seniors tournaments; reports on the ITF's development activities and the Technical Centre; historical records of major tournaments and biographies of the greatest players; and ITF World Champions, Board of Directors and useful ITF and tennis information.

The Yearbook is a full-colour 128-page coffee-table book recording the 2008 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas. It is written by the tennis journalist Mark Hodgkinson, and includes photos from top tennis photographers around the world.



### Wheelchair calendar

The ITF has announced the full calendar dates for the 2009 NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, which tops 150 tournaments for the very first time, with 151 tournaments in 37 countries.

### OTF AGM

The Oceania Tennis Federation held their AGM in Melbourne on Thursday which was attended by ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti.



*The OTF delegates with ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti*

### USTA invests in World Team Tennis

The USTA is to become a 25 per cent owner of Advanta World Team Tennis Pro League, it was announced last week. One of the main goals of the new partnership is to provide an expanded marketing platform for the USTA's Junior Team Tennis Program, a recreational tennis league for children from six to 18 years old.

The Advanta WTT Pro League, co-founded by Billie Jean King, is a professional co-ed sports league featuring top tour players from more than a dozen countries. The League showcases three generations of tennis standouts, including legends, current tour players and up-and-coming tennis pros, competing on teams throughout the U.S. each summer.

This year, the Advanta WTT Pro League Championship Team and Award winners will be recognized in a special ceremony at the US Open. For more information visit [www.WTT.com](http://www.WTT.com).

## ITF Wheelchair Rankings

### MEN'S SINGLES RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	KUNIEDA, Shingo (JPN)	3694
2nd	AMMERLAAN, Robin (NED)	3225
3rd	HOUDET, Stephane (FRA)	2291
4th	OLSSON, Stefan (SWE)	2240
5th	KRUSZELNICKI, Tadeusz (POL)	1904
6th	SCHEFFERS, Maikel (NED)	1819
7th	JEREMIASZ, Michael (FRA)	1817
8th	LEGNER, Martin (AUT)	1623
9th	SAIDA, Satoshi (JPN)	1594
10th	PEIFER, Nicolas (FRA)	1465

### WOMEN'S SINGLES RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	VERGEER, Esther (NED)	3512
2nd	HOMAN, Korie (NED)	2571
3rd	GRIFFIOEN, Jiske (NED)	1846
4th	GRAVELLIER, Florence (FRA)	1600
5th	WALRAVEN, Sharon (NED)	1577
6th	VAN KOOT, Aniek (NED)	1007
7th	YAOSA, Mie (JPN)	998
8th	SEVENANS, Annick (BEL)	971
9th	FRIDMAN, Ilanit (ISR)	962
10th	HONG, Young-Suk (KOR)	875

### QUAD SINGLES RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	WAGNER, David (USA)	2886
2nd	NORFOLK, Peter (GBR)	2864
3rd	ANDERSSON, Johan (SWE)	1496
4th	TAYLOR, Nicholas (USA)	1279
5th	VAN ERP, Bas (NED)	1121

### Visit the ITF websites

ITF homepage: [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com)

Davis Cup website: [www.daviscup.com](http://www.daviscup.com)  
[www.daviscup.com/es](http://www.daviscup.com/es)

Fed Cup website: [www.fedcup.com](http://www.fedcup.com)

ITF Store: <http://store.itftennis.com>

## ITF Junior Rankings

### JUNIOR BOYS RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	YANG, Tsung-Hua (TPE)	1173.75
2nd	BHAMBRI, Yuki (IND)	1121.25
2nd	DIMITROV, Grigor (BUL)	1087.50
4th	TOMIC, Bernard (AUS)	830.00
5th	PEREIRA, Jose (BRA)	725.00
6th	BASIC, Mirza (BIH)	670.50
7th	CARRENO-BUSTA, Pablo (ESP)	641.25
8th	KRAJINOVIC, Filip (SRB)	635.00
9th	BUCHANAN, Chase (USA)	630.00
10th	URIGUEN, Julien (GUA)	600.00

### JUNIOR GIRLS RANKING

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	LERTCHEEWAKARN, Noppawan (THA)	1082.50
2nd	BOGDAN, Ana (ROU)	995.00
3rd	ROBSON, Laura (GBR)	991.25
4th	BOGDAN, Elena (ROU)	981.25
5th	HALEP, Simona (ROU)	882.50
6th	NARA, Kurumi (JPN)	790.00
7th	TOMLJANOVIC, Ajla	783.75
8th	LOUDIN, Melanie (USA)	757.50
9th	JOVANOVSKI, Bojana (SRB)	741.25
10th	BABOS, Timea (HUN)	735.00



12 Jan - 23 March: ITF Central American & Caribbean Team to COSAT Team 2009

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## Results week commencing 19 January

### ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT

#### AUSTRIA F1 FUTURES, SALZBURG (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Nicolas Reissig (AUT) d. Colin O'Brien (IRL) 63 62

##### Doubles

Aljaz Bedene (SLO)/Andrej Martin (SVK) d. Gerald Melzer/Nicolas Reissig (AUT) 63 62

#### EL SALVADOR F1 FUTURES, SANTA TECLA (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Lars Poerschke (GER) d. Stephen Bass (USA) 63 67(5) 63

##### Doubles

Claudio Grassi (ITA)/Gaston-Arturo Grimolizzi (ARG) d. Holger Fischer/Lars Poerschke (GER) 36 63 [12-10]

#### GERMANY F3 FUTURES, KAARST (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Bastian Knittel (GER) d. Julian Reister (GER) 62 64

##### Doubles

Bastian Knittel (GER)/Darko Madjarovski (SRB) d. Karlis Lejnieks (LAT)/Denis Matsukevitch (RUS) 76(9) 64

#### GREAT BRITAIN F2 FUTURES, SHEFFIELD (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Lukas Lacko (SVK) d. Scott Oudsema (USA) 76(5) 57 63

##### Doubles

Richard Bloomfield/Jonathan Marray (GBR) d. Dusan Karol/Jiri Krkoska (CZE) 64 76(3)

#### ISRAEL F1 FUTURES, EILAT (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Attila Balazs (HUN) d. Amir Hadad (ISR) 61 63

##### Doubles

Attila Balazs (HUN)/Amir Hadad (ISR) d. Ismar Gorcic (BIH)/Petar Jelenic (CRO) 61 60

#### SPAIN F2 FUTURES, MAGALUF (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Andoni Vivanco-Guzman (ESP) d. Dustin Brown (JAM) 67(4) 75 76(4)

### Doubles

Dustin Brown (JAM)/Peter Steinberger (GER) d. Agustin Boje-Ordonez/Andoni Vivanco-Guzman (ESP) 67(3) 76(3) [12-10]

#### USA F2 FUTURES, HOLLYWOOD, FL (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Nikola Ciric (SRB) d. Matej Bocko (SVK) 63 63

##### Doubles

Grigor Dimitrov/Todor Enev (BUL) d. Stefano Ianni/Mattia Livraghi (ITA) 61 62

### ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT

#### \$10,000 KAARST (GER)

##### Singles

Sarah Gronert (GER) d. Irina Kuzmina (LAT) 26 64 75

##### Doubles

Elena Chalova/Marina Melnikova (RUS) d. Julia Babilon/Franziska Etzel (GER) 63 62

#### \$10,000 WREXHAM (GBR)

##### Singles

Claudine Schaul (LUX) d. Constance Sibille (FRA) 61 36 64

##### Doubles

Martina Babakova (SVK)/Iveta Gerlova (CZE) d. Danielle Brown/Elizabeth Thomas (GBR) 26 63 [11-9]

#### \$25,000 LUTZ, FL (USA)

##### Singles

Sharon Fichman (CAN) d. Lauren Albanese (USA) 64 76(5)

##### Doubles

Kimberly Coutts (USA)/Sharon Fichman (CAN) d. Story Tweedie-Yates/Mashona Washington (USA) 64 75

### ITF JUNIOR CIRCUIT

#### BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA, GRADE 1

##### Boys Singles

Andrea Collarini (ARG) d. Yannik Reuter (BEL) 75 36 61

##### Girls Singles

Zsofia Susanyi (HUN) d. Paula Ormaechea (ARG) 75 63

##### Boys Doubles

Gaetan De Lovinfosse/Yannik Reuter (BEL) d. Kevin Konfederak/Facundo Mena (ARG) 26 64 [13-11]

### Girls Doubles

Veronica Cepede Royg (PAR)/Cecilia Costa (CHI) d. Ulrikke Eikeri (NOR)/Malou Ejdesgaard (DEN) 16 76(5) [10-7]

#### PREROV, CZECH REPUBLIC, GRADE 1

##### Boys Singles

Sandro Ehrat (SUI) d. Dominik Wirlend (AUT) 67(3) 62 64

##### Girls Singles

Valeria Savinykh (RUS) d. Annika Beck (GER) 62 75

##### Boys Doubles

Robert Rumler/Radim Urbanek (CZE) d. Alexander Kostanov/Richard Muzaev (RUS) 63 75

##### Girls Doubles

Paula Kania/Magda Linette (POL) d. Nastja Kolar (SLO)/Polina Leikina (RUS) 62 62

#### KOLKATA, INDIA, GRADE 3

##### Boys Singles

Venkat Iyer (IND) d. Mohit Mayur Jayaprakash (IND) 64 62

##### Girls Singles

Anna Rapoport (RUS) d. Kumari-Sweta Solanki (IND) 61 63

##### Boys Doubles

Mansingh Athare/Sidharth Sivakumar (IND) d. Bibaswan Deb (IND)/Ryoto Tachi (JPN) 64 62

##### Girls Doubles

Aishwarya Agrawal/Rishika Sunkara (IND) d. Natela Dzalamidze/Anna Rapoport (RUS) 76(4) 62

#### HAMBURG, GERMANY, GRADE 4

##### Boys Singles

Florian Fallert (GER) d. Leandro Toledo (GER) 64 67(7) 63

##### Girls Singles

Elina Svitolina (UKR) d. Kateryna Kozlova (UKR) 76(2) 64

##### Boys Doubles

Adam Laakel/Wojciech Lutkowski (POL) d. Jannick Lupescu/Colin Van Beem (NED) 61 46 [10-7]

##### Girls Doubles

Kateryna Kozlova/Elina Svitolina (UKR) d. Julia Kimmelman/Constanze Lotz (GER) 64 76(6)

Cont. over/...

## Results (cont. from page 5)

### FUJAIRAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, GRADE 5

#### Boys Singles

Slim Hamza (TUN) d. Mike Vermeer (LUX)  
61 67(6) 63

#### Girls Singles

Ani Amiraghyan (ARM) d. Olga  
Musilovich (RUS) 63 57 62

#### Boys Doubles

Sami Ghorbel/Fares Kilani (TUN) d.  
Muhammad Waqas Malak (PAK)/  
Vishwesh Sinha (IND) 26 62 [10-6]

#### Girls Doubles

Ksenia Khatsey/Nadejda Sidorenko  
(RUS) d. Nour Abbes/Ons Jabeur (TUN)  
64 75

### HONG KONG, CHINA, GRADE 5

#### Boys Singles

Chuhan Wang (CHN) d. Ang Li (CHN) 64  
75

#### Girls Singles

Zhaoxuan Yang (CHN) d. Saisai Zheng  
(CHN) 06 64 62

#### Boys Doubles

Phassawit Burapharitta/Nuttorn  
Tanchainant (THA) d. Kwun Ho Kong  
(HKG)/Kai-jie Lin (CHN) 63 63

#### Girls Doubles

Xiaorong Dong/Zhaoxuan Yang (CHN) d.  
Shi Ying Li/Ai Wen Zhu (CHN) 61 62

## This Week Next Week

Events - week commencing 26 January 2009

### MEN/WOMEN AUSTRALIAN OPEN, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

<b>MEN</b>	Austria F2 Futures	Bergheim by Salzburg	\$10,000
	Egypt F1 Futures	Giza	\$10,000
	France F1 Futures	Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	\$10,000
	Guatemala F1 Futures	Guatemala	\$10,000
	Israel F2 Futures	Eilat	\$10,000
	Spain F3 Futures	Murcia	\$10,000
	USA F3 Futures	Plantation, FL	\$10,000
	Mexico F1 Futures	Tuxtla Gutierrez	\$15,000
	Morocco F1 Futures	Casablanca	\$15,000
	Germany F4 Futures	Mettmann	\$15,000+H
<b>WOMEN</b>	France	Grenoble	\$10,000
	India	Hyderabad	\$10,000
	USA	Laguna Nigel, CA	\$25,000
<b>SENIORS</b>	USA	Naples FL	Grade 2
	Canada	Markham	Grade 3
	New Zealand	Blenheim	Grade 4
<b>JUNIORS</b>	<b>AUSTRALIAN OPEN, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA</b>		
	Ecuador	Cuenca	Grade 2
	Czech Republic	Frydlant nad Ostravici	Grade 4
	New Zealand	Christchurch	Grade 4
	Switzerland	Leuggern	Grade 4
	United Arab Emirates	Fujairah	Grade 5
<b>WHEELCHAIR</b>	<b>AUSTRALIAN OPEN, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA</b>		
	Australia	Caloundra	ITF 3 Series

Visit [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com) for full contact details for all forthcoming events

## This Week Next Week

Events - week commencing 2 February 2009

### MEN

Austria F3 Futures	Salzburg	\$10,000
Costa Rica F1 Futures	San Jose	\$10,000
Egypt F2 Futures	Cairo	\$10,000
Israel F3 Futures	Eilat	\$10,000
Spain F4 Futures	Murcia	\$10,000
France F2 Futures	Feucherolles	\$10,000+H
Colombia F1 Futures	Manizales	\$15,000
Germany F5 Futures	Nussloch	\$15,000
Mexico F2 Futures	Naucalpan	\$15,000
Morocco F2 Futures	Rabat	\$15,000
Ivory Coast F1 Futures	Abidjan	\$15,000+H

### WOMEN

Portugal	Vale Do Lobo	\$10,000
Spain	Mallorca	\$10,000
Australia	Burnie	\$25,000
France	Belfort	\$25,000
Great Britain	Sutton	\$25,000
USA	Rancho Mirage, CA	\$25,000

### SENIORS

USA	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Grade 3
Hungary	Budapest	Grade 4

### JUNIORS

Peru	Lima	Grade 2
Tunisia	Sfax	Grade 3
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Grade 4
New Zealand	Auckland	Grade 4
Slovenia	Radenci	Grade 4
Oman	Muscat	Grade 5

### WHEELCHAIR

Australia	Sydney	ITF 1 Series
USA	Tucson, AZ	ITF Futures Series

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